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Program Title: Guatemala Emergency Response to Tropical Storm Stan

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Country/Region: Guatemala, Central America

Type of Disaster/Hazard: Tropical Storm

Time Period Covered by the Report: October 24th, 2005 – April 24th, 2006 FINAL REPORT

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE

Project Background

Hurricane Stan struck Guatemala on October 4, 2006. Over the next five days, the storm's continuous rains - more than 267 mm in just one day – led to extensive flooding and mudslides, which in turn produced widespread human suffering and extensive material damage. The Hurricane affected more than 147 municipalities in 15 departments that are located in the Southern and the North Eastern sections of the country. The hardest hit areas included the departments of San Marcos and Sololá. In addition to destroying houses, roads and crops, the storm's impact devastated the livelihood strategies of thousands of families and resulted in the deaths of more than 1,000 people.



The circled area was the most affected by Storm Stan.

Immediately after the storm, World Vision Guatemala's disaster response team hit the ground and began providing essential relief services to inhabitants in both San Marcos and Sololá. Damage assessments conducted during the first days after the storm enabled World Vision to identify 465 families whose houses were completely destroyed. These families also lost their crops, livestock, and food reserves, leaving them extremely vulnerable and without viable coping mechanisms.



Project Goal

Save lives, reduce human suffering.

Objective 1: Provide temporary shelter to 465 households currently housed in community shelters.

Indicator 1.1 465 temporary shelters built in the communities located in San Marcos and Sololá by the end of six months. The shelters design will be according to the national standard promoted by CONRED.

465 temporary shelters were built according to the design standards developed by the National Coordinator for Disaster Mitigation (CONRED). The Office of the Presidency of Guatemala provided wood frames, while OFDA / USAID donated the canvas used to construct and the cover the shelters.



Geographical Area: The shelters built in the department of Sololá and San Marcos (see annex 1 for the list of families) were distributed as follows:

Department	Municipality	# of communities	# of planned shelters	# of shelters built
Sololá	San Juan LL	1	55	55
	Sololá	7	29	29
	Nahuala	8	17	17
	Sub-total	16	101	101
San Marcos	Nuevo Progreso	3	39	39
	Malacatan	16	116	116
	Tajumulco	25	209	209
	Sub-total	44	364	364
Total		60	465	465

Participant and Site Selection: World Vision (WV) Project staff in coordination with local leaders, government and other NGO representatives verified the list of beneficiary families to avoid duplication and maximize coverage. They then carried out a risk assessment in order to select appropriate areas to build the shelters. This process involved facilitating field visits with participating families to identify potential locations within the selected communities. These sites were then evaluated in relation to the minimum standards established by CONRED in their field manual entitled: "Criteria for Selection of Sites for the Installation of Transition Shelter Camps and Logistic Aspects". In those instances where it was especially difficult to find appropriate land to build on, joint visits were carried out with representatives from CONRED and involved more extensive analysis to ensure proper selection.

Construction of Shelters: Distribution of Materials: The extensive damage caused by the storm to rural transportation networks represented a major obstacle. In response, the project utilized a multi step process to distribute construction materials to affected areas. CONRED provided large trucks that were used to transport prefabricated materials from the fabrication sites to central distributions points. Given the poor conditions of access roads, small pick-ups provided by World Vision Guatemala's Area Development Programs or ADPs transported the materials to the communities. In several instances the selected sites could not be reached by vehicle: thus beneficiaries had to move the materials themselves.

The pictures below illustrate the process used to transport construction materials:



Community Organization: Before initiating shelter construction, WV staff carried out meetings with participating families who in turn nominated shelter committee members and local boards of directors. These structures assumed responsibility for organizing and overseeing activities at the community level.

Training: Shelter Promoters as well as representatives from the participating families were trained on how to assemble the shelters. Afterwards, promoters organized groups of 5 families each and established the steps and procedures to follow. During the construction of one-family shelters, participating families cleared the land, provided non-skilled labor and helped transport materials.

In San Juan La Laguna, located in the Department of Sololá, 55 single-family shelters were built. The municipal government granted permission to 44 families, who do not have land themselves, to build on communal land. This is a temporary measure that enables government officials to obtain land and the support needed to provide a more permanent solution.



Contribution of participating families: Families provided non-skilled labor and local materials such as sand and stones for the construction of floors and also helped unload the CONRED trucks. In many cases, the mayors' offices from affected municipalities also provided transportation and logistical support. In the case of the municipality of Tajumulco, transportation was negotiated with area bus owners since most of the communities were inaccessible except to small buses that were able to transport one shelter at a time.

Indicator 1.2: 2,325 persons living in new and secure shelters.



Approximately 2,600 persons are living in the 465 shelters built as a result of this project. Many of the shelters house families with up to 8 members. In other cases, the shelters have been assigned to single headed families (mostly women) and their children.

Before the Hurricane, some families were forced to share houses. In order to avoid such overcrowding, the project was designed to ensure that each family

had its own shelter.



Objective 2: Ensure basic sanitation and access to safe water for targeted beneficiaries.

Activities carried out included coordination meetings with the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance's Water and Sanitation Emergency Commission. As a result, the Commission donated materials for 322 dry vented pit latrines. The project constructed 73 latrines for use by the families housed in shelters in Sololá and 249 for families living in shelters in the department of San Marcos.

World Vision Guatemala procured other complimentary donations from sponsors, private donors and the Government of Canada, which led to the installation of 127 additional latrines; including 42 fertilizer latrines. As a result of these efforts, 100% of targeted families were benefited with a latrine. All participating families were trained on proper use and maintenance of the latrines. The pictures below show the two types of latrine installed by the Project:



Dry vented pit latrine.



A fertilizer latrine.



This picture is of a community meeting where staff provide training on the use and maintenance of latrines.

Potable Water. With regards to the provision of safe water, a variety of water purification methods were promoted by the Project by taking into consideration both the specific needs and context of each community. In some cases, rainwater collection tanks as well as manual pumps and appropriate filters were installed. For example, in the municipality of Tajumulco more than 70 families were forced to walk very long distances to gather water. In response, the Project helped them install rainwater collection systems that took advantage of the shelters' galvanized iron roofs.

The 44 shelters constructed on a common site in San Juan La Laguna were connected to the municipal potable water system. This enabled families to have access to potable water as well as showers. In addition, the organizations “*Médicos del Mundo*” or Physicians of the World as well as the Solar Foundation provided water purification systems for several shelters.

Finally in three communities located in the municipality of Malacatán, where the water table is at 7 meters below the surface, the Project supported the installation of Mayan type mechanical pumps. The beneficiaries were responsible for digging the wells while the Project contributed the pumps, training and other technical support.



In terms of hygiene, 100% target families received plastic sinks to wash their cooking utensils as well as their clothes thanks to donations from both the Government of Canada as well as from private Canadian Citizens (please refer to the pictures below).



Effective coordination with municipal and department level government officials as well as other development organizations made it possible for the Project to effectively respond not only to water and sanitation but also to other needs as well. In addition to providing materials needed to install water systems certain municipal governments such as in San Juan La Laguna provided shelters with electricity services. “*Médicos del Mundo*” provided health care services to families living in shelters in San Juan La Laguna during a four-month period. In addition, they also supported the construction of septic tanks.

However, coordination was not limited to the local and department level. The Ministry of Health provided training to World Vision Staff with regards to installing water pumps. Also, the installation of Oneil fuel-efficient stoves and water purifiers was carried out in coordination with the Office of the First Lady of Guatemala (SOSEP).

Indicator 2.1 2325 of persons receiving hygiene kits

Please refer to Page No. 13, Objective 3, Indicator 3.2 “Number of people receiving survival kits.”

Indicator 2.2: # of persons trained in personal/ household hygiene;

The Project hired three nutrition and health promoters who trained participating families on the following topics:

- Organization
- Personal health and hygiene
- Kitchen
- Use of wash basins and latrines
- General cleansing
- Security at shelters
- Social Welfare
- Preparation of food
- Home hygiene.

The pictures below illustrate diverse training activities.



The following chart indicates the number of people trained:

Department	Municipality	No. of communities	No. of people to be trained	No. of people trained
Sololá	San Juan La Laguna	1	319	350
	Sololá	7	145	75
	Nahualá	8	88	80
	Total	16	552	505
San Marcos	Nuevo Progreso	3	195	130
	Malacatán	6	578	535
	Tajumulco	23	1040	165
	Total	32	1813	830
Total		48	2365	1,335

Indicador 2.3: # of persons being benefited from water purification system installed.



As a result of the Project 262 persons have directly benefited from permanent water purifications systems (all 465 families received temporary filtration systems). SOSEP has promised to donate more permanent systems to cover the remaining targeted families. All of the targeted families are trained in home disinfection methods including boiling water. In some cases, families have learned about the SODIS system (which uses the sun's ultra violet rays to purify water).



As mentioned previously, the provision of water to the multi-families shelter was achieved in San Juan la Laguna in coordination with the Mayor's Office. In the communities El Desengaño, El Olvido and Guadalupe in San Marcos, families benefited from the provision of water filters donated by the Red Cross.

In addition to water filters, Project Staff with materials donated by SOSEP have promoted the use of improved, fuel-efficient stove. So far SOSEP has provided 83 fuel-efficient stoves to families living in the municipalities of San Juan La Laguna, Nahualá and Sololá.

Objective 3: Ensure food availability for targeted beneficiaries.

Indicator 3.1 # of persons receiving food rations;

In response to the severe damage that Stan caused to agricultural and livestock production, coupled with high losses to stored food supplies (mainly corn and beans) the Project supported affected families with complementary food rations. This proved vital in terms of preventing short-term food insecurity problems, especially acute malnutrition among small children who otherwise would become even more vulnerable to disease.

In addition to destroying food stores, the storm also left most targeted households without furniture, clothes and other basic assets. As a result, the Project provided these families with critical non-food items such as furniture (including mattresses for beds and a dinner table), kitchen equipment and cleaning supplies. These interventions correspond to indicator 3.2: # of persons receiving survival kits (cooking and household supplies).

Food Distribution: During the project period, World Vision provided complementary rations to nearly 7,000 people or almost triple the number contemplated in the proposal. This was achieved in coordination with the World Food Program (WFP) as well as OXFAM, World Vision Canada and World Vision United States. Immediately after the storm's impact, World Vision Guatemala also used its own resources to provide emergency food rations to affected families. Alliances and coordination mechanisms were also established with local municipalities and organizations (COCODES, Auxiliary Mayors, etc.) that helped implement activities on the ground.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SUMMARY

PLANNED	EXECUTED	% EXEC.
2,325 persons receiving food.	6,590 persons receiving food.	283

Family Selection Criteria: In order to select the families targeted to receive both food and survival kits, the following criteria were considered:

- a- Families who lost productive assets and as a result had limited or no immediate coping mechanisms.
- b- Families who totally or partially lost their homes.
- c- Families living in shelters with limited, immediate economic opportunities.

Operational Strategies: The Project began by organizing participating families. Prior to receiving food rations and survival kits, family members were trained on how to adequately prepare the food products as well as on how to utilize and maintain non-food items.

Actual food distribution took place in the communities. Food and other products were provided mainly to women, considering that they are the ones in charge of actually using the supplies. Each family benefited through the provision of the same amount of each product. Project staff with support from local organizations implemented protocols for registering beneficiaries according to established procedures. Beneficiaries signed the registry each time they received rations and/or supplies.

GENERAL SUMMARY
FAMILIES SUPPORTED THROUGH THE PROVISION OF FOOD FROM
WFP, OXFAM y WVG

Dept./Municipality	Number of Communities	First Distribution: # of Families Benefited	Second Distribution: # of Families Benefited	Total # of Families	Total # of persons benefited
San Marcos (Malacatán, Tajumulco, San Pablo, Nuevo Progreso)	41	876	875	876	4380
Sololá (Nahualá, Sololá, San Juan La Laguna y San Pablo la Laguna)	19	378	442	442	2210
	60	1254	1317	1318	6590

Note: Food was provided in different periods by different organizations.



Food Rations: In total 1318 families (6590 persons) received rations in 76 communities, located in 8 municipalities in San Marcos and Sololá. WFP provided over 155.4610 metric tons of food in San Marcos and Sololá. At the end of the project, WFP was in the process of preparing a final food delivery to participating families with support from the ADPs and local authorities.

The food rations provided by the World Food Program included corn, beans, oil and CBS (flour). The rations provided by OXFAM included corn, rice, sardines, eggs, salt, sugar, and vegetables (potatoes, tomato, carrots, etc.). WVG provided corn flour, Incaparina (a highly nutritional beverage), baby food, salt, juices as well as dry corn and beans, etc. It is important to note that rations from the different organizations were distributed in different communities and /or at different times.

Families Benefited by the World Food Programme

Department / Municipality	# of Communities	# of families / First delivery	# of families / Second delivery	Total of Families benefited	Total of persons benefited
San Marcos (Malacatan, Tajumulco, San Pablo, Nuevo Progreso)	41	651	875	875	4375
Solola (Nahuala, Solola, San Juan La Laguna y San Pablo la Laguna)	19	55	384	384	1920
Total	60	706	1259	1259	6295

Note: Rations are per family (5 members) is for a period of 30 days and it contains: 60 kg. of corn maíz, 9 kg of beans, 3 kg of oil and 15 kg of CSB.

Families Benefited by OXFAM

Department / Municipality	# of Communities	# of families / First delivery	# of families / Second delivery	Total of Families benefited	Total of persons benefited
Solola (San Juan La Laguna)	1	58	58	58	290
Total	1	58	58	58	290

Note: - Rations were delivered to families housed in shelters in San Juan La Laguna. Rations were given per family and for a period of 30 days. Each ration kit contained 50 pounds of corn, 5 pounds of rice, 3 cans of sardines, 1 carton of eggs, 2 pounds of salt, 5 pounds of sugar, 6 pounds of potatoes, 8 pounds of tomatoes and 12 carrots.

Families Benefited by World Vision in Guatemala

Department / Municipality	Number of families benefited	Total of persons benefited
San Marcos (Malacatan, Tajumulco, Nuevo Progreso)	225	1125
Solola (Nahuala, Solola, San Juan La Laguna)	265	1325
Total	490	2450

Note: These emergency rations were provided at moments of greatest need. The ration kits included water, ready-to-eat foods as well as bags of rice, beans, oil, noodles, salt and Incaparina.

SUMMARY

Families benefited with food from WFP, OXFAM and WV

Location	# of communities	First Delivery: # of Families	Second Delivery: # of families	Total Number of families	Total Number of Persons Benefited	Total # of Rations Provided
San Marcos (Malacatan, Tajumulco, San Pablo, Nuevo Progreso)	41	876	875	876	4380	1751
Solola (Nahuala, Solola, San Juan La Laguna y San Pablo la Laguna)	19	378	442	442	2210	820
Total	60	1254	1317	1318	6590	2571

Note: In terms of estimating total number of persons benefited an average of five people per family was used. The total number of family rations corresponds to the rations given in two deliveries, which took place on different dates.

Indicator 3.2 # of persons receiving survival kits (cooking and household supplies).



1,200 families, including the 465 families targeted in the proposal, received survival kits. These kits included family hygiene supplies, baby supplies, and kitchen kits. They also included sponges, thick blankets and plastic dining furniture. In addition to OFDA, the Canadian Cooperation Agency (CIDA), World Vision United States (via cash funding and gift-in-kind support) and World Vision Guatemala collectively provided resources for these kits. Together, these resources were used to provide more holistic and effective support to families.

Distributed amounts: Survival kits were distributed in the following geographical areas:

GENERAL SUMMARY

Families Supported through the provision of Kits

Department/Municipality	Number of Communities	Number of Families Benefited	Total Number of Persons benefited
San Marcos (Malacatán, Tajumulco, Nuevo Progreso)	57	1000	5426
Sololá (Nahualá, Sololá, San Juan LL y San Pablo LL)	19	101	505
Total	76	1254	5931



Provision of emotional support to families affected by Stan

In addition to the interventions described above, the Project also carried out a number of activities intended to provide emotional support to families, who needed to deal with both extreme material and human loss. These activities were directed at both adults and children.

Methodology: Emotional support activities were carried out in two phases. The first phase involved training facilitators, including WV staff as well as representatives from local churches and other organizations. The second phase entail implementing self-help workshops for families affected in both Sololá and San Marcos.



Contents. Activities focused on directly comforting and supporting men, women and children who suffered emotionally as a result of this tragedy as well as teaching others how to comfort those in need of help. This entailed learning to live with

loss by expressing and sharing sorrow and pain to a person, or a group of persons who can be trusted. These self-help training workshops gave people the skills needed to survive a crisis by allowing them to accept loss and grant themselves the opportunity to feel pain, share it and receive comfort. Participants were guided in the first critical steps of the recovery process: understanding the crisis, burying the past and difficult memories, accepting sadness, understanding fears, rage, guilt and moving on to acceptance.

Training workshops used both theoretical and practical tools for adults. Methods emphasizing graphic expressions were used for children:

Before Stan



During Stan



After de Stan



GENERAL SUMMARY

Persons attending Emotional Support Workshops

PDA	COMUNIDAD	MUJERES	HOMBRES	NINOS	JOVENES	TOTAL
IXIM ACHI	CHUACRUZ	8				8
	PROGRESO	3	2			5
	CENTRAL	6	5			11
	CASTRO	7	1			8
	CIPRESALES	15		23		38
	VASCONCELOS	19		22		41
	CHOPEN	4		6		10
		62	8	51	0	121
COTZIJ YA	SAN MARCOS	43				43
	SAN JUAN	43		47	25	115
	TZUNUNA	7		19		26
	SAN PABLO	0		30		30
		93	0	96	25	214
FE Y AMOR	PACHIPAC	3	2	6		11
	PALANQUIX	5	1	13		19
	PATZIJ	2				2
	CHUICULLIL	2	1	6		9
	PATZITE	2	2	4		8
	RACANTACAJ	2		6		8
	XEPATUJ	1	1	2		4
		17	7	37	0	61
TOTAL	18	172	15	184	25	396

Methodology Used to Implement the Project.

The Project was carried out by a team comprised of staff from both WV Guatemala's National Office as well as from its field staff. In addition to their hard work and dedication, another critical factor responsible for the Project's success was the high level of participation achieved among target families as well as from the community structures that are supported by ADPs in both the departments of San Marcos and Sololá. All Project interventions were effectively coordinated both locally and nationally with representatives of the Guatemala Government along with NGOs working in the area in order to avoid duplicity of efforts. In that regard, CONRED played a critical role in term of ensuring effective coordination as well as by providing specific materials: such as wood frames and canvas needed to construct shelters. The support of several other organizations, including SOSEP, "Médicos del Mundo" and The Solar Foundation CIDA and many others, served to compliment and expand the Project's impact.

Monitoring activities were carried out through weekly meetings and involved the direct participation of project beneficiaries. Regular field visits were also carried out to verify progress. Staff collected and processed data on a biweekly basis and used it to provide feedback to management and make informed adjustments to schedules and approaches.

Main Accomplishments

1. In a period of six months, 465 temporary shelters were built: 101 in Sololá and 364 in San Marcos using the material provided by OFDA/USAID and in accordance to the standard established by CONRED
2. 465 families were provided with water and sanitations services.
3. 465 families received a latrine and plastic sinks.
4. 1,200 families received survival kits.
5. 6,590 persons were benefited with complementary food rations.

Organization and coordination

As mentioned throughout this report, community organization and effective coordination at all levels proved critical to the success of this response. In terms of organization, participating families were sensitized, duly organized and willing to contribute and support the installation of their temporary shelters. They also played a key role in the implementation of other services such as installing water and distributing rations and survival kits.

The involvement of municipal authorities and other government institutions and non-government organizations was widespread and effective. Key collaborators included the Mayors' Offices from the municipalities of San Juan La Laguna, Nuevo Progreso, Sololá, members of the COCODES from all affected communities, the Ministry of Health and SOSEP, among others.

Training

In terms of training, the Project learned a great deal. Among the most important lessons learned are the following:

1. The timely hiring of trained and experienced staff that knows how to organize communities and carry out activities with a gender focus.
2. Development of holistic training plans that are developed and implemented in coordination with facilitators from the ADPs, Psycho-emotional support facilitators, and government organizations such as local Ministry of Health representatives.
3. Efficient use of multi stakeholder meetings to develop training plans in targeted intervention area. This helped to prevent duplicity of efforts and resources.
4. Development of topics for chats with families who benefited from the installation of Temporary Shelters.

Difficulties

1. There was delay in the purchase of wood since authorization was required to purchase it from local mills with OFDA funds. Although this issue was resolved with support from the Mission and OFDA, it did nevertheless lead to slight delays with regards to the construction of the shelters.
2. In the municipality of Tajumulco, located in the department of San Marcos, the poor conditions of the roads made it especially difficult and costly to transport materials needed to construct the shelters. This problem was mitigated in part by support from the local authorities.

3. At the beginning of the project, a large number of families did not have access to suitable land, which made it more difficult to provide shelters. However, these families were eventually either able to acquire land or borrow it from a relative.
4. With regards to the provision of water, many of the sites where the shelters were constructed were located far away from potable water services. Providing them with alternative yet consistent sources of water often proved challenging.

Lessons Learned

1. The involvement of community and institutional leaders in the development of actions eases and optimizes efforts, especially when the roles and responsibilities of each actor are clear and respected.
2. Local associations learned how to respond to emergencies by doing, including the handling of non-food items as well as distributing food. This experience will be especially helpful when the need to respond to another crisis emerges.
3. Leveraged funding and other complimentary resources available to World Vision enabled the Project to provided additional services and support not originally contemplated. Such an approach not only increases the impact of OFDA funds but also helps to provide a more holistic solution to the needs of affected families.
4. The fact that WV and its ADPs were already present and active in the intervention areas, even prior to the storm and had solid working relations with key government and non government entities, resulted in a more timely and effective response.

Adjustments made to Project Objectives

1. The original project proposal contemplated establishing 86 shelters in the department of Sololá and 379 in San Marcos. Based on the needs and input from participating families it was decided to construct 101 shelters in Sololá and 364 in San Marcos instead.